

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A co-axial, multi-rotor wind turbine having a multiplicity of rotors attached at spaced intervals to a driveshaft, with means to furl sideways to the wind to protect it from overspeed.
2. The wind turbine of claim 1 wherein said means to furl sideways comprises a yaw bearing and a horizontal offset means that supports said turbine at a distance from said yaw bearing, a tail that acts to keep the turbine headed substantially into the wind during normal operation, and means for allowing the tail to be blown to a neutral position in excessively strong winds so that the turbine may be allowed to be blown downwind of said yaw bearing and thereby become oriented across the wind, so that the rotors are oriented substantially at right angles to the wind, whereby the rotors produce a reduced amount of power, thereby protecting the turbine from overspeed.
3. The wind turbine of claim 2 wherein said tail has means for keeping said tail in a normal position during normal operation, and further having means to allow the tail to be in a neutral position in high winds, so that the turbine can be blown downwind of said yaw bearing in excessively strong winds, thereby turning the turbine across the wind to protect it from overspeed.
4. The wind turbine of claim 3 wherein said means for keeping said tail in a normal position during normal operation, and said means to allow the tail to be in a neutral position in high winds, comprise a tail pivot that is angled back from vertical, substantially toward the downwind section of the driveshaft, whereby gravity tends to pull the tail toward the downwind section of the driveshaft during normal operation.
5. The wind turbine of claim 4 wherein the travel of said tail toward said downwind section of said driveshaft is stopped by a tail stop.
6. A coaxial, multi-rotor wind turbine having rotors attached at spaced intervals to a driveshaft, wherein one said spaced interval is large enough to allow said turbine to be mounted atop an elevation means that is wider than a normal tower without contact between said rotors and said elevation means.
7. The wind turbine of claim 6 wherein said elevation means is a wide tower.
8. The wind turbine of claim 6 wherein said elevation means is a tripod tower.

9. The wind turbine of claim 6 wherein said elevation means is a tower having guy wires that attach near the top of the tower at a point higher than the lowest points that said rotors reach.
10. The wind turbine of claim 6 wherein said elevation means is a building.
11. A wind turbine, comprising:
- a series of substantially horizontal axis type rotors attached in a substantially coaxial manner at spaced intervals along a driveshaft;
 - said driveshaft aimed sufficiently parallel to the wind for the rotors to effectively harness the wind, but at an offset angle from the wind direction, sufficient to allow an admixture of fresh wind, substantially undisturbed by upwind rotors, to each rotor;
 - said driveshaft held in a rotationally free, cantilevered manner, by a cantilevered bearing means from which it projects;
 - wherein at least part of said driveshaft projects from said cantilevered bearing means substantially toward the wind;
 - wherein said offset angle is in the horizontal plane;
 - said wind turbine further comprising passive means to maintain a heading at said offset angle from the wind direction during normal operation.